



## **REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held November 25, 2002.**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Alan Turnbull, Thomas X. White, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of former residents Thomas Sharp and Helen E. Supple. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Turnbull and seconded by Mr. Putens that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

### **MINUTES**

- Work Session, October 30, 2002
  - Interview, November 4, 2002
  - Regular Meeting, November 4, 2002
  - Work Session, November 13, 2002
  - Work Session, November 18, 2002
- Approved as presented.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Advisory Planning Board, Communication, 11/13/02 (Purple Line): Council accepted this report and will consider it as part of any future discussions of this topic.

Advisory Planning Board, Report #02-07 (Exception to Sign Plan - Commerce I): Council received this report and will consider it on the agenda of the December regular meeting.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Committee, #02-4 (Skateboard Park): Council accepted the report and will consider it later on the agenda with meeting scheduling.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board, #02-5 (Shed at Braden Field): Council accepted the report and will consider it as part of the discussion of the FY 2004 City budget.

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Open Forum Report: Council received the report and will add it to the list of work sessions to be scheduled later in the meeting.

Employee Floating Holiday: Council agreed to grant the extra staff holiday this year as a floating holiday.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Turnbull moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

## PRESENTATIONS

ARecycle Right@ Awards: The four residential winners of the AWin Your Bin@ contest were presented with new, blue recycling bins identifying them as contest winners, as well as a number of prizes awarded by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Present were: Evan and Irene Owens, 1-G Laurel Hill Road; Victor and Ann Boswell, 169 Research Road; Gary, Alla, and Sarah Lake, 7804 Chartwell Place; and Josh and Pam Hamlin, 38-B Ridge Road. Neal Barnett, chair of the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee (REAC), noted that the City's four pick-up routes and one for-contract route were represented this year. Cindy Murray, staff liaison to REAC, introduced William Smith, Public Works, who worked with the crews to make the selections. She also updated Council on Public Works and REAC efforts of this month, including an electronic recycling collection and the opening of the experimental recycling center in Greenbelt East.

Citizens Concerned for a Cleaner County: Mayor Davis displayed a plaque and certificates received by the City from this organization; she noted the City always does well in this competition every year and thanked REAC for its efforts in making the nominations.

Letter of Appreciation to Police Department: Mayor Davis read and presented to Chief James Craze a letter commending the Greenbelt Police Department for its work on behalf of the City during the recent sniper episode.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Neal Barnett, 54 Lakeside Drive, requested that the front door of the Municipal Building be left unlocked prior to Council meetings for the benefit of those approaching from Crescent Road.

## MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Executive Session of November 13, 2002: Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Wednesday, November 13, 2002, be approved as presented. He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in executive session at 8:55 p.m. in the Senior Classroom of the Community Center. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Section 10-508 (a) (3) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose (Jaeger Tract). Mr. Putens seconded.

## ROLL CALL

Mr. Putens - yes  
Mr. Roberts - yes  
Mr. Turnbull - yes  
Mr. White - yes  
Mayor Davis - yes

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Putens asked Mr. McLaughlin to look into and report back on two incidents that had been brought to his attention: one regarding material posted at Green Ridge House; the other involving a sidewalk/curb in disrepair adjacent to the dentists' office on Ridge Road.

Mayor Davis reported on the Veterans Day observance, which she, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Putens attended. This year, it was held indoors because of the weather, but she suggested that the City consider providing more chairs when it is next held outdoors. She also reported on the Advisory Committee on Education job fair, the holiday parade at Beltway Plaza, and the County Executive's Prayer Breakfast.

At the Mayor's request, Mr. McLaughlin gave a brief report on the annual Health Fair. He also mentioned a meeting he and the City Solicitor held with the City of Laurel at their request regarding regulation of newspaper boxes.

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE SITE PLAN:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mayor Davis remarked that the County Planning Board was "almost bending over backwards" to get the owner to meet the City halfway in this matter. She noted that no one was present at tonight's meeting on behalf of the owner. Celia Craze, Director, Planning and Community Development, said at staff's meeting with representatives of Atlantic Reality, the owner had supplied documentation that the proposed parking space ratio is appropriate and had also offered to plant more trees on areas already scheduled for landscaping. She said the item is scheduled to return to the Planning Board on December 5 and that staff is proposing no change in the City's recommendation to deny the request.

There was discussion of whether the City should file an appeal with the District Council if the site plan is approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Manzi said he would have 30 days from December 18 to file and that it would not involve a great deal of work. Mr. Roberts said he thought it was important to try to hold the county to its own minimum conservation standard. With regard to the statistics on parking spaces, Mr. Manzi pointed out that some of these approvals may have predated the current woodland conservation regulations.

Ms. Craze asked for Council's direction on sending another letter of comment. Council was in agreement that some of the alternatives to on-site reforestation that staff had proposed in its meeting with Atlantic Realty would not be acceptable. It was moved by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Putens that a letter be sent saying Council had reviewed the matter, clarifying that the discussion with the owner had been at the staff level, and emphasizing items #1, 2, 3, and 6 as summarized in Vernell Arrington's letter of November 25. The motion passed 5-0.

Jaeger Tract: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. McLaughlin said Congressman Hoyer's office had called today and had indicated they had not given up all hope that the Jaeger Tract could be purchased for Greenbelt Park. He said the National Park Trust believes there should be a strong public response, since special interests should not override the greater public interest, and he noted the letter from Paul Pritchard, president of the Trust, that was published in the Greenbelt News Review. Mr. White and Mr. Putens both expressed frustration with the problems of communication that appeared to have arisen in late October and early November; and said they wanted more information about what had actually occurred.

Mayor Davis said she wished someone from the Friends Community School had come to speak to Council about this and offer an explanation of their actions. She expressed her opinion that it was bad enough that the prior owners had not negotiated in good faith, but in taking this action the Friends School contradicted the philosophy they say they wish to promote of being "green" and environmentally sensitive. She asked where exactly their environmental sensitivity begins.

There was considerable discussion of the City's disappointment in the outcome of these events, as well as what actions should now be taken. Mr. Roberts moved that a letter to Congressman Hoyer be sent to encourage him to do everything possible to convince the National Park Service to exercise its power of eminent domain. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Turnbull's suggestion was accepted that two letters be sent, one to Congressman Hoyer, one to the Park Service. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Davis asked if a letter to the Friends School should be sent. Mr. Turnbull suggested a letter that would provide detail on the reasons the City and the partnership wished to preserve this tract as part of the park. Mr. Roberts moved that such a letter be sent. Mr. Turnbull seconded. Mr. White opposed the motion, saying this letter would be premature until such time as the partnership agreed that all possibilities had been exhausted for the federal government to acquire the land for the park. He later added that such a letter or any dealings with the Friends School should properly be undertaken by the partnership, not the City. Mr. Manzi said the City should be cautious about sending any letter that might imply a bias prior to any Planning Board consideration of a site plan. Mr. Turnbull agreed that the letter should come from the partnership, with Mr. Eugster of the Park Service listed as the contact person.

There was discussion of a tantalizing suggestion from Mr. White that if the City were to annex Westchester Park, it could then annex the Jaeger Tract.

Seeing Joe Haskell, a member of the board of the Westchester Park Civic Association, in the audience, Mayor Davis asked if they would be sending their own letter to the Friends School or whether they would wish to participate in a partnership letter. Mr. Haskell first expressed the appreciation of the Civic Association for the City's efforts. He described their interactions with the Friends School, including a conversation he had with Mr. Goss, the headmaster, on November 11, in which no mention was made of a settlement. He also described an interaction last June with Suellen Ferguson, who was then a member of the school's board. Overall, he said their discussions with the school had been less forthright than he would have hoped. He said they would be pleased to be a co-signer of any letter the partnership would put forth. When the vote was called on sending the letter from the partnership, the motion passed 5-0, with a request from

Mr. White that Council be able to review the letter before it is sent. Mr. McLaughlin said he would survey the other members of the partnership to determine whether the group would like to send such a letter. Mr. White also asked staff to attempt to determine the names of the members of the board of the Friends Community School and find out who had represented the school in its negotiations with the former owner. Mayor Davis said attorney Suellen Ferguson had represented the school.

Cherrywood Lane Corridor Study – Briefing: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Celia Craze, Director, Planning and Community Development, presented the corridor plan, pointing out that the part of the corridor approaching Greenbelt Road has the more serious engineering issues. Mr. Turnbull suggested that the City broach with Beltway Plaza the possibility of getting additional right-of-way on the east side of Cherrywood in this area. He also said he would like to see some review of the plan by bicyclists. Mayor Davis suggested it was time again to write to WMATA regarding funding for the roundabout. The Ivy Lane intersection was identified as another possible site for a roundabout. Mr. Roberts moved Council approval of the Cherrywood Lane Corridor Plan and the concept for the roundabout for the Metro Access Road intersection, pending review by the Advisory Planning Board. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Proposed 2003 Legislative Program: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts suggested adding support for speed cameras under state issue #3. Mayor Davis suggested instead annotating under the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Program that this was originally Greenbelt's legislative initiative. She also asked to tie support for the Purple Line to state/county issue #1 and title it as a broader transportation issue. She suggested adding objection to CB-40 as a county issue, as well as noting that "Police Communications" under "Other Issues" is also a COG priority. It was moved by Mr. Turnbull and seconded by Mr. White that the FY 2003 legislative priorities be presented as amended. The motion passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Turnbull. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of November 25, 2002, at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Gallagher  
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held November 25, 2002.@

Judith F. Davis  
Mayor